

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker,

My name is Matthew Jamison, Deaf, 51 years old and I am a customer of VRS providers, using SorensonVRS, ZVRS, and Purple Communication and I find their VRS technology invaluable, providing me easy communication access to anyone I wish to call and VRS has given the independence that I have enjoyed over the past years. Without VRS, I will have to go back to ancient technology, that's using TTY and depend on someone who can hear to make phone calls for me which will take away my privacy and makes me feel like a third class citizen which I totally dread. I sure hope that I will never ever go back to that old technology. I have been there and never want to go back again!

I understand that FCC has proposed 3 tier rates. I was shocked and disgusted, especially the third tier rate which is 38% rate reduction. That's utterly ridiculous and totally unheard of. How will you feel if FCC cut your salary by 38% just because we are in a bad economy or because you earn too much? Would you accept it? Of course not! That's exactly what you were asking VRS providers, especially SorensonVRS. I am writing this email to you, urging you to keep your commitments to the deaf by setting a FAIR and REASONABLE compensation rate for Video Relay Service providers. I couldn't believe in my eyes that your recent announcement that you are considering a rate reduction. That rate reduction you proposed could very well destroy VRS as we know it.

I understand that FCC stated that one of the goals behind this rate plan was to encourage providers to invest in better VRS service, better technology, and better interpreters. I totally support that and encourage them to keep improving for a better tomorrow and I can tell you as a VRS user that VRS service has in fact improved - wait times for calls are shorter, videophones are substantially better, and we now have Enhanced 911 emergency service and ten-digit telephone numbers. Please do not let our VRS quality service to go downhill or eventually to disappear. With drastic reduction rate, it could very well lead layoff of interpreters and VRS employees. I believe with unemployment of Deaf people will lead them to apply for SSI/SSDI and that would cost millions of \$\$\$ to taxpayers. We currently have 70% of the Deaf population who are SSI/SSDI recipients due to not able to find a job. That's not fair to the Deaf as it is discrimination.

Now, I plead you strongly not to shut down the investment and improvements in VRS, and instead to make better VRS available to more deaf individuals. Please show us that the FCC also is committed to these goals by keeping your commitments to the deaf community and setting a fair VRS rate! Please do your civic duty and do the RIGHT thing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Jamison